

'Like a friend dropping in'



The Elmswell Newsletter



Twenty-seven years of Parish Record... all the Community News...

May 2016

**Safe
to sit
on the
grass?**



... see editorial page

**Wesley -
what's
going on?**

... See page 7



Published on the first Friday of every month by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879.

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Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate.

If you wish to comment, please do so via the office at Gobblins on the industrial estate behind the Fox or via email at: elmswellamenities@f2s.com.

We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.

Once upon a time it was not considered wrong to down a few pints of brown & mild down the pub whilst enjoying a full strength Woodbine before slipping behind the wheel of the old Ford Capri, flinging the seat belt to the floor and bombing it back home where the little lady had roast-and-3-veg ready, drowning in Bisto.

Ahhh – Bisto! Ahhh – those were the days.

These were variously known as, 'the good old days', or the last twitchings of the post war Neanderthal chauvinist gestalt, depending on whether one read the Daily Mail or The Guardian. For readers of The Elmswell Newsletter it brings to mind dog fouling.

Stay with us. It's 'attitudes'. Take a look at the cosy picture painted in our opening paragraph.

Well within living memory drinking and driving was largely ignored as a problem. It was as recently as 2008 that The Department for Transport funded every police force in England and Wales in order to buy newly approved, memory equipped roadside screening breath testing devices. The limit of 87.5 microgrammes per 100 millilitres of breath is now considered a safe limit which seems, quite rightly, a world away from Freddie Frinton's variety show act of humorous drunken incapability, or the jolly bonhomie of, 'one for the road'. It is now considered irresponsible to be aware of someone setting out to drive whilst 'over the limit' and to not ring the Police. The law has persuaded a 180% switch in attitudes.

As for smoking...how dare you! Once again the law responded to social pressures and gave the opportunity to radically change attitudes. In 2007 the market for 'No Smoking On These Premises' signs, rocketed as the market for smoke extractors and air purifiers plummeted. Overnight the right to ignite dried vegetable material in a public place was removed and all reasonable people gave a smoke-free sigh of relief. The law is still there, but it might be fair to suggest that the popular perception has moved on beyond the merely legal...smoking is now wrong.

Seat belts concentrated the public mind on car safety and spawned air bags, automatic proximity braking and a bewildering array of behaviour restraints that produced an unforeseen consequence as drivers began to feel too safe, invincible and therefore less careful. Not a problem as driverless technology emerges. The seat belt advertising, in an historical context, might have been delivered, in hindsight, with a 'clunk'. But in terms of attitudes, it 'clicked'.

As for, 'the little lady', such a phrase requires careful reference to Legalities on Line before safe publication. Surely the furthest progress of all the above examples of change has been in gender role definition. The Bisto mum has joined

the Servis twin-tub and Reckitt's Blue in The Museum of East Anglian Life, a striking example of the change that social attitude can bring.

So, where does dog fouling come in? It comes in many places and it comes in too often.

In the heady days when there were enough policemen about for there to be time for the Force to interact with the community, there were regular meetings for the airing of complaints and concerns. It was always instructive to see the senior officers seek feedback on 'anti-social behaviour'. They were expecting drug abuse, graffiti and raves. They invariably got dog fouling. Top of the list of things that affected people's enjoyment of their environment. Similarly, when letters were invited to your Newsletter, before Face Tube and Twitterers gave an alternative outlet for the time-rich, thought-poor obsessives to enlighten the world with their sad outpourings, the most common theme for social concern was the fouling of our pavements, footpaths and play areas by dogs. It is such a common theme that, for fear of concern-fatigue, it seldom features in our pages. However, the Council has seen fit to feature it, once again, in a specific context.

On grass, where children play, what is normally merely infuriating and disgusting becomes dangerous. In a Newsletter editorial some years ago, the doctors at Woolpit Health Centre drew attention to the issue of toxocariasis.

This disease, they explained, causes serious illness and even blindness. It is caused by a parasite known as *Toxocara Canis* (also known as Roundworm). These parasites live in dogs' digestive systems. Eggs are released in the faeces of infected animals and contaminated soil. If someone ingests infected material, the eggs may hatch into larvae and can lead to toxocariasis. The disease usually affects children aged between one and four years, but cases have been reported in people of all ages. Young children are most at risk because they are more likely to put things into their mouths and less likely to wash their hands properly. Symptoms can include seizures, breathing difficulties, a very red and painful eye, and clouded vision, usually only in one eye. Left untreated, toxocariasis can cause permanent loss of vision in the affected eye.

Grass where children play features quite prominently at Blackbourne. As does the enormous sign at the entrance. It says, see page

27. 'Play Area NO DOGS'. It is often ignored. When tackled, the owners of dogs, often roaming free, on the field can become abusive. Or wildly illogical, '...it only applies in the play area'. The result, according to the groundsmen who maintain the grass and prepare the playing areas is disgusting, dangerous and very difficult to deal with once it has been spread in gobblins of potential poison about the field.

There are laws. And regulations. But little enforcement for a crime that is often not observed and, pending some sense in the debate on DNA chipping of all dogs as part of a self-financing licensing scheme, unattributable.

Which brings us back to attitudes. When the minority of offending dog owners feel pressure to acknowledge the privilege that they have rather than assume aright that they don't have. There might be progress. When snitching on an offending neighbour is seen as being as acceptable as if they were about to drive after excessive drinking there might be more effective enforcement.

Unless and until attitudes change, do watch your step.



Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 6 months we need copy by:

May 24th	June 21st
July 26th	August 23rd
September 27th	October 25th

...and don't forget you can view and buy most of the photographs in the magazine - and a whole lot more - by visiting the 'Elmswell Gallery' site www.elmswellgallery.com or ask at the Memorial Library or ring us on 241841.

Your editors:

Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

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The costs are covered by advertising, so, please, support our advertisers, and do mention us if and when you use them.

Last year the magazine made a contribution of £10,936.00 to the Association's funds - all of it directed to improvements in the village.



ELMSWELL ART CLUB

When is the warmer weather going to come? I am hoping that on 12th May we have a nice day as the Art Club members are joining together with Risby Art Club members to go on a day trip to Dedham and visit the Munnings



Museum. Fingers crossed that spring will properly have "sprung" by then! To cheer you up the pictures this month are watercolours by Henry Gow and Denise Lawrence (a peony and a rose) together with a beautiful seascape in acrylic by Linda Stephenson. *Denise Lawrence, Club Secretary 01359 245207*



ELMSWELL EXCHANGE SOCIAL CLUB

Sylvia welcomed the members. As it was her birthday she was presented with a cake to celebrate, and we all sang Happy Birthday.

Our speaker this month was Alistair Angus our village butcher. He told us of the farms in Woolpit and Drinkstone where the beef cattle are reared and cared for. They have Longhorns, Belted Galloways and Red Poll which are free range and their welfare is paramount.

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They have won awards for their sausages and pies and were 3rd in the country for small herd Red Poll cattle.

After birthday party refreshments and the raffle, final arrangements were made for the outing to the Hut at Felixstowe on May 10th. We will also be visiting Thetford Garden Centre on May 17th.

New members are always welcome.

Enquiries to Sylvia on 241 505.

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ELMSWELL W.I.

After welcoming everyone, Rachel told us about some of our members who are going through hard times. She then read out a moving poem, which has given her consolation in similar circumstances. Life can be hard sometimes...

Rachel asked for more people to volunteer as committee members and gave us the dates of future activities: 15.4, craft at Rosie's; 19.4, Scrabble at Anna's and 22.4, a quiz and fish and chip supper will be held at Stanton, in aid of St. Nicholas Hospice. There will be a pop-up café at the Wesley Hall on the Queen's birthday, 11.6. Rachel asked if anyone would like to help.



Jane was in charge for the rest of the evening. She was very surprised and pleased, when she saw the Twiddle Muffs which people had created, during the past month. (If you did not read last month's report, they are knitted muffs, embellished with ribbons, buttons etc. to create different textures, which are given to dementia sufferers to "fiddle with." They appear to soothe and relax them, thereby reducing stress and fidgeting, which can be a problem.)



The main activity of the evening was concerned with adding all the extras to the finished muffs. Jane had kindly brought lots of different trimmings, as well as some little flowers crocheted by her daughter, Lydia. Several members had already finished theirs and there were so many brilliant ideas, including little knitted and crocheted animals, bells, textured paper inserts, butterflies etc. People's imaginations had certainly been stimulated and they had had great fun making the muffs.

We thoroughly enjoyed our evening, sitting at round tables, chatting, working and exchanging ideas. We didn't even stop for tea! Eventually, there were about twenty finished muffs, which will be given to the hospital. Jane has challenged us to increase the number by another thirty, during the next few months.

Rosie Collins 01359 241652

ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON W.I.



We were pleased to welcome **our old friend Chris Parfitt to our April meeting.** He took us on a most interesting pictorial trip to **The Isles of Scilly.** We travelled with him on the overnight sleeper from Paddington to Penzance, enjoyed a hearty breakfast and then a two and a half hour crossing on

The Scillonian to St. Mary's. He made this journey in May as this is apparently the driest month in the area. Chris's trip was essentially a walking venture which meant we really saw the islands as they should be seen.

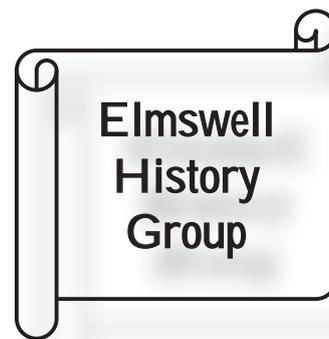
We began in St. Mary's, then to Tresco and the Botanic Gardens. Next was St. Martins, Bryher and St. Agnes. He even managed to pick a sufficiently fair weather day to visit the famous Bishop Rock Lighthouse and his pictures were spectacular. **Our competition was An Item from the Seaside.** First was Mary, second Lesley and third Maureen. Chris is always a welcome speaker and we hope he will return in our next year's programme.

Following refreshments we went through our business matters.

At present we are extremely concerned about our future meeting venue. It appears that we will not be able to fulfill our July booking as this falls on the 6th of the month and is passed the closure date. We must, therefore, look elsewhere. This is causing our members a great deal of anxiety. We are just hoping that it will all turn out well in the end for us.

Next month is our Annual General Meeting and Resolutions for 2016. When this is all completed there will be something "a little extra" to keep us busy. The competition is "A favourite piece of Craftwork"

We welcome newcomers - please contact Barbara on 242788 or Maureen on 241033.



ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

(formerly Elmswell Millennium History Group)

Our speaker at the meeting on 14 April was Clive Paine; having been our speaker at the inaugural meeting of the Group 16 years ago, it was good to welcome Clive again, when his subject was 'Suffolk Men at Waterloo'. Before the talk we were invited to keep a minutes' silence in which to remember our Treasurer Philip Blissett who had passed away the previous week. Our thoughts are also with Carol, his wife.

Clive gave us a graphic description of the Battle between England and France which concluded at Waterloo, near Brussels, with Napoleon's defeat on 18 June 1815. Napoleon led his army of some 72,000 troops against the 68,000 British Army, which included Belgian, Dutch and German troops and was led by Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington. Napoleon delayed his attack and this gave Blücher's Prussian troops time to march to Waterloo, join the battle and force the French to retreat in chaos.

There were several Suffolk men who took part in the Battle, among them Sgt William Middleditch, landlord of 'The Ram' in Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Lt Col Edward Kerrison of Eye, Capt Thomas Crauford who was buried at Hengrave, Obadiah Ambrose and James Metcalfe of Long Melford and Robert Bond of Yaxley, known as 'Waterloo Bond'. The Waterloo Medal (the first campaign medal awarded to all ranks in the British Army) was awarded posthumously to Lemuel Shuldham of Marlesford who served in the the Scots Greys.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12 May at the Wesley Hall at 7.30pm, when our speaker will be Justyn Keeble; his topic will be 'Elmswell's World War II Home Guard.

For more information about the History Group please go to our web site www.elmswell-history.org.uk or telephone Stella Chamberlin on 01359 242601.

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The Holiday to Llandudno proved to be a big success in terms of the weather for our days out to the Isle of Anglesea for a stop at Llanfair PG for at the shopping centre for lunch ,our second day out was a scenic coastal trip which then took us inland viewing the snow covered mountains on the way to Betws -y-Coed for lunch and more retail therapy returning to the Hotel for Afternoon tea. This year,s themed “cruise” took us to New York Reykjavik

(IceLand) Monte Carlo and Paris where we enjoyed the various treats associated with each port of call all followed by food served as it would be in each country.

Our next big club evening to mention is a visit by the” Broadside Boys” on April 21st when we welcome visitors to join us starting at 7 00pm.On this evening we will also be celebrating the “Queens Birthday”

Ourtrip to Brick Lane is now full but we have other days out throughout the year. Bookings are now being taken for our next holiday (Turkey & Tinsel)at Eastbourne in November(18th/21st

Diann (241002)



ELMSWELL OVER 55's

Firstly on behalf of the Club I must sincerely thank the Elmswell Firemen for their wonderful donation of £500 from their “Charity Fund” it will be a great boost to funds especially with there being no “Autumn Fayre” which is usually our main source of outside funding.

The AGM has been and gone for another year with all the committee offering to continue for another year ,but it would be great if we could find some younger blood to come forward and join us with a view to taking over the reigns possibly next year as the bulk of the committee are not as young as they were when the joined the committee.

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB



Bobbing through the Blackbourne car park came a goodly crowd of Gardening Club members with boxes and bags full of greenery – all spare cuttings and clumps of various plants from their gardens to be swapped and discussed at our April meeting. After much wheeling and dealing nearly all the plants were re-homed and the few leftovers will be planted in the Elmswell railway station borders.

This month's talk on ‘Threats to our Precious Woodland’ was given by volunteer speaker, John Fleetwood, from the Woodland Trust. He opened with a brief history of the Woodland Trust; founded in 1972 by Devon farmer, Ken Watkins, who had seen the rapid decrease in our broadleaf woodland, copses and spinneys. From small beginnings the Trust now has 55,600 acres of woodland, but that is still minimal, as the UK is the least wooded country in Europe. Also our ancient woodlands – that is woodlands existing before 1600AD – are dwindling, with at least eight ancient woods due to be felled for the HS2 project. The developers have said they will move the woods, but seem to have missed the point. Once an ancient woodland is bulldozed,

then its replacement will take at least 400 years to reach maturity. John pointed out that the Trust sponsors the planting of new woodlands to create corridors for wildlife, acting as a buffer against the impact of urbanisation. We all hear about disease threats to our trees, such as Dutch Elm disease, Ash dieback – even the mighty Oaks are not immune as they are prey to Acute Oak Decline. Ash dieback will kill 90% of our Ash trees; but in an ancient Norfolk woodland, a disease-resistant 200 year old Ash, fondly called ‘Betty’, has been found. This may be the key to Ash tree survival, so that at least our children may see these trees once again in our woods. It was quite a sobering talk; but at least the Woodland Trust is planting thousands of trees with the only stipulation being that there should be no fences or gates, so that all may enjoy.

The gardens of our village are looking very beautiful at the moment and if anyone (not necessarily a Gardening Club member) would like to open their garden on **Sunday, 17th July**, Nick would love to hear from you. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 17th May, 7.30pm**, at the Blackbourne, when **Sue Robinson**, will give a talk on ‘**The Garden of Gertrude Jekyll and Lutyens**’. Our meetings are informal and friendly with members eager to learn from our expert speakers and even give very good advice themselves. For further information please contact **Nick Chamberlin** on 242601.

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WESLEY FACILITIES - A STATEMENT

This statement is made to reassure the village at large and the users of the Wesley facilities in particular. It is made in light of rumour and mis-information which has been rife over recent weeks.

The Parish Council was asked to step in and help save this much loved community facility. In July of last year, it agreed to work towards finding, 'preferred ways forward', to secure its future for the community.

The Council was able to draw upon the considerable and very relevant experience of some of its members who had, between them, established and run successful local and international businesses, established and run successful community ventures, engaged in land acquisition and building projects and who are immersed in village activities, including those which happen at the threatened facility. Five such were asked, in September 2105, to join the Parish Clerk in finding, 'the way forward'.

At an early stage the users had registered the facility as an, 'Asset of Community Value'. This protects it for 5 years against development other than for community use. The Council then registered a 'Community Right to Bid', which ensured that only the Council could, for the first 6 months, buy it. During this 6-month moratorium or over the full 5-year period it is, of course, entirely the Methodists' decision whether to sell or not.

The Methodist Church put the site on the market on 4th January. It has always been the understanding that they would prefer that the facility remained as a community asset and they made no objection to it being formally registered as such. Conversely, the Council has always understood that the Church is obliged to realise a reasonable price for that asset, the money being needed for its mission in the wider community.

Hence the Planning application which was before Mid Suffolk in September 2015 for the demolition of one of the halls on the site and its replacement with a 4-bedroom house. The application was refused, largely on the grounds that the asset of Community Value protected, 'the provision of community facilities'.

A second Planning application was lodged and was before the Planners in April of this year. This sought to convert the Victorian chapel into a dwelling house. Again, the refusal centred on the protection afforded by the Asset of Community Value registration.

In the meantime, the Council had, in December, appointed Messrs Lacy Scott & Knight to provide the professional advice which is essential in the contemplation of such a major purchase with public money. The vendors did likewise, appointing Jackson Stops & Staff and, in February of this year, subsequently instructing them in the matter of price negotiation.

With the 2 Planning applications determined there are now fewer variables in the way of an agreement between the 2 parties as to a 'Fair Value' figure. This has to be agreed by the Methodist organisation in Manchester and by the Parish Council in Elmswell, but it would seem to be reasonable to suggest that progress will be made so that the official 'closure' date of 1st July need not mean that the village organisations cannot continue to meet at the Wesley.

There has been no discussion as to what happens after the community takes possession, as all those involved hope and believe will happen. Neither has there been any suggestion that all of the current, and hopefully many more, users will not enjoy the use of community meeting facilities at Wesley for the foreseeable future.

Disquiet and concern will always attend change, particularly something as dramatic and important as is happening here and now and something affecting so many of our residents.



Users and councillors start the process

Similarly, rumours and whispers will abound and flourish and grow and people will, as ever, tend to fear the worst. Sadly there will inevitably be those among us who will trade upon the fears and reservations of others to spread their own disquiets against those working towards a solution. They will always be niggling against those taking positive and practical action and always ready to encourage dissent whilst carefully avoiding the responsibilities that others are willing, despite the barbs and brickbats, to shoulder. Luckily they are very few and, in this matter, increasingly isolated.

Our position has not changed. We have sought to avoid panic, to act properly and professionally throughout the twists and turns of the unfolding situation. It is not a purely commercial situation, both sides being committed to community improvement and enhancement in one way or another, and both sides being bound by rules and by statute to agree a price that is 'Fair'. However, both sides are dealing as trustees of public funds and are similarly bound to agree that the price agreed represents, from their governance aspect, 'Value'.

We were notified of the refusal of the second Planning application on 10th April which gives the green light to serious negotiations. With both sides now represented by experienced professional land agents we are confident that a mutually agreeable deal is imminent. We hope and believe that we shall justify the trust that was placed in us and the very encouraging support from the community at large by securing a Wesley future for Elmswell.



*Cllrs David Hawes, Fred Pallett, Shaun Pratt,
Julia Taber, Chris Wiley.
Parish Clerk Peter Dow*



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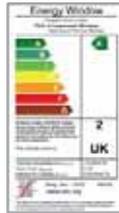
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ELMSWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

May has got off to a brilliant start at the library.

By the time you read this we will have launched our Brave New Reads programme, held a fabulous fundraising Spanish wine and food night and we may have even had a morning celebrating our hedgehog friends.

And we still have a night with the Elmswell Guides to look forward to, and a couple of really exciting events to come in June and July.

So first things first – we have a brand new bean-to-cup coffee machine in the library serving cappuccino, espresso, black coffee and latte. It was all paid for by grants donated to ELF and will continue to be a fundraiser for the library. At £1 per cup for a really tasty drink, it's a bargain...and what a perfect combination, coffee and books in a beautiful library!



Our Brave New Reads are now in the library and ready to read. It's an exciting programme organised by Norwich Writer's Centre for adult readers which will run until July. There are six books, all selected by a group of readers to challenge you and take you out of your reading comfort zone. They are amazing books, each different and picking up different topics. And you don't need to do anything special to take part – just borrow a book, read it and, if you wish, fill in a feedback postcard about your experiences. And for all those who read one or all of the books, there will be a Bubbles and

Books event in July to get everyone together to talk about the books over a glass of something lovely on a hot summer's eve (hopefully!)

Hedgehog Day in the library is on Saturday, May 7 from 10:30am-12:30pm. There will be stories and crafts, a competition, cakes to buy (in aid of Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue) and maybe even a little friend to meet. Just come along to join in the fun.

Later in May, Elmswell Guides will be visiting us to learn about becoming a Dementia Friend. Manager, Emma Yarrow, trained as a Dementia Champion last year and is going to talk to the girls about the issues someone living with dementia might face and how they can be more understanding. We plan to tie this in with the Guide's Go For It programme, which includes aspects looking at healthy lifestyles, including mental health awareness.

And onto June when we will be hosting Elmswell author Annie Stewart as she launches the third book in her highly successful children's series about Wilf the dog. There will be an invitation only launch in the library one evening, followed by a children's event on Saturday, June 11th from 10:30-12:30 when Annie will be in the library reading with children, talking to them about her stories and answering any questions. Just come along, and if you love the stories all three of the Wilf books will be on sale in the library.

And finally, it won't be too long before our annual Summer Reading Challenge kicks off, this year themed The Big Friendly Read, celebrating Roald Dahl and all his fabulous characters. We always need volunteers to read and listen to the children who take part, so if you have an hour a week during the six-week summer holiday (or even just part of it) then please let us know.

Elmswell Library is open Tuesday and Thursday 10-1pm and 2-7pm, Wednesday and Friday 2-5pm, Saturday 10am-1pm and Sunday 10am-3pm. We look forward to seeing you soon.



ELMSWHEELIANS 2016

On a very chilly morning, coinciding with the London Marathon, Sunday 24th April, with outbreaks of hail and strong winds, 12 determined Elmswheelians set off into the Suffolk countryside for our first ride of the year.

Our route took us out of the village via Church Hill and Bunkers Hill, briefly onto the A1088, then on to Tostock, Drinkstone Park, Hesselset, Bradfield Woods, Freewood, back into Hesselset, and on to Beyton for a well earned pit-stop at "The Bear". We had planned a refreshment stop at "The Five Bells" in Hesselset, but made better time than expected, so decided to add a little bit of mileage to our route, and diverted to Beyton for our break.

In the event this proved to be a very fortunate move, as we watched a very heavy hailstorm from the comfort of the bar! From Beyton it was home via Drinkstone, Woolpit, and back into Elmswell using Kiln Lane and Warren Lane.

All in all, a very enjoyable ride.

Total distance covered was 17 miles.

Please note our next ride will be on Sunday 29th May, starting as usual from Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell, at 10.30 a.m.

Other Rides planned :

Friday 10th June (evening ride - 12 miles approx.)

Friday 22nd July (evening ride - **Bumblebees Fund Raiser** - 15 miles approx.).

Sunday 21st August (15 miles approx.)

Sunday 25th September (15 miles approx.)

If you enjoy cycling, do join come and join us. We cycle purely for pleasure; at a reasonable pace, but not at speed ; there is no membership; just turn up, and join a group of people who enjoy social cycling. You will be very welcome, but must be aged 16+.

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NEWS FROM ELMSWILD

A Walk in the Woods – with cake!

Every year in May the Tree Council organises its ‘Walk in the Woods’ month to encourage people to get out and about and explore their local woodland. It’s a great time of year to be outside in the woods – the birds are nest-building and singing their hearts out, the trees are all coming into leaf, fruit trees are in blossom, bluebells and other woodland flowers are in full bloom, and – with a bit of luck – the sun will be shining.

If you fancy a walk in your local woodland, please join us at Lukeswood on Saturday 21st May from 2.30. It’s an opportunity for a gentle ramble round the trees to see how things are progressing (it’s now six years since our first tree planting) and to have a chat with ElmsWild members. There will be a variety of activities on offer, too. Ever wondered what they get up to in Forest Schools? Now’s the chance to find out – our Street Farm Forest Schools experts will be on hand to show you how the children benefit from this great outdoor learning scheme, and you can even have a go at some of the activities yourself. The sweep nets, magnifying pots and ID charts will be available too – go on your own minibeast safari and see what you can find! Or if you fancy something a bit less energetic, join us on a guided walk around the orchard (more than 60 fruit trees now planted!) and the woodland. We can’t offer bluebells, unfortunately, but we do have a small and, hopefully, growing patch of ramsons – wild garlic – that also carpet some woodlands at this time of year. And yes, there will be cake, too – refreshments will be served in the pole barn.

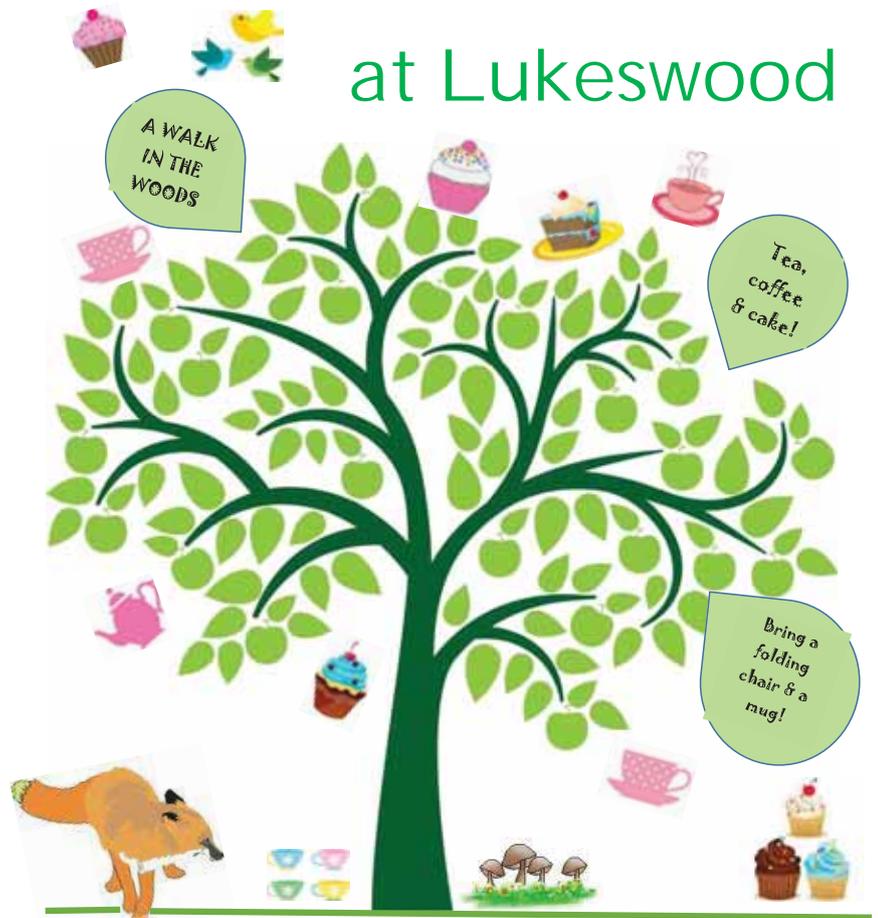
Stout boots or wellies are recommended as the ground may be muddy in places. We do have some seating – a couple of benches and a range of differently shaped logs – but please do bring a folding chair or rug if you feel the need to take the weight off. We will supply the teas and coffees, but it would be great if people could bring a mug, too – it saves on the washing up!

Free admission – everyone is most welcome. We look forward to seeing you at Lukeswood and having a natter over a cup of tea and slice of cake.



Mary Feeney
info@elmswild.org.uk

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ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Contact: Revd Peter Goodridge tel: 240512
email: elmswellrector@gmail.com
web: www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk

...and now find us on facebook!

Details of our May services are below. Please join us :) Everyone is always welcome!

Sunday 1st May

9:30am All Age Service
 11:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 8th May

8:00am Holy Communion
 10:30am Morning Service: Parish Praise

Sunday 15th May

10:30am Morning Service: Holy Communion
 6:30pm Christians Together Pentecost Service

Sunday 22nd May

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10:30am Morning Service

Sunday 29th May

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10:30am Morning Service

Sunday 5th June

9:30am All Age Service
 11:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Hello from St John's :)

In April we had our Annual Meeting. This was an opportunity to review what happened in 2015. We elected new churchwardens, new PCC members and reviewed the finance. Most importantly, we thanked God for what he has faithfully been doing at St John's and looked to the future. Please get in touch with us if you'd like to know more about the running of St. John's.

During the Easter Holidays, some St John's members attended Spring Harvest. They had an excellent time, enjoying the preaching, praising and fellowship together. We are hoping to share some of the ideas seen there at St John's over the next few months, including "Parentalk" (from the charity Care for The Family) which is a resource to provide some fresh inspiration to parenting our children. Join us to find out more!

On Friday 20th May, we will be having a ladies card making session at 7:30pm in the church. If you're feeling creative (or even if you're not), why not come along and have a go? There will be refreshments and we plan to sell the cards, raising money for a worthy cause.

As always, details of our Sunday services are below. Please come along if you are interested in seeing what we're up to. Everyone is always welcome.



The Friends of St John's Church

On Saturday 9 April we enjoyed a piano recital by Alastair Blay, 'A musical journey through time', with a selection of music from Bach to Prokofiev. Alastair had prepared programme notes and pictures of the composers were projected on the screens, adding interest to his accomplished playing. Refreshments were served in the interval and donations were received for the work of 'The Friends'.

On 21 April we hosted a tea party to mark the Queen's 90th birthday and over 40 of us enjoyed a happy afternoon in the Wesley Hall.

Our next event will be on Sunday 12 June when we hold our Friends' Annual Service, when Catherine Joughin will be the Speaker. The service is at 10.30am in St John's Church and will be followed by a free light lunch.

Then on 16, 17 and 18 July we hope to hold a Flower Festival, with the church being open from 2pm to 5pm each day. Refreshments will be available.

J Folkard tel: 01359 242099

Christians Together in Elmswell

This year we held the Good Friday service at the Baptist Church, with a very good attendance and it was good to see members of various churches (Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic, United Reformed, Salvation Army, etc) joining together to worship. We would be pleased to welcome members of any Christian church at any of our services so we could truly be 'Christians Together in Elmswell'.

Our next service will be on Sunday 15 May, when we celebrate Pentecost. The service will be held at St John's church at 6.30pm

J Folkard tel: 01359 242099

ST JOHN'S FLOODLIGHTING

30th April 2016 marked the end of the 22nd year of floodlighting St. John's Tower, a year in which we raised £1,445, a figure boosted this year by a very handsome donation of £500 from the Elmswell Firefighters.

This brings the sum accumulated since we started to a magnificent £17,980. Over the years floodlighting the tower has become an integral part of village life. As well as raising funds for St. John's, it has become a very popular way of enhancing the profile of the church itself. As "taker of the money" I would like to say, once again, a huge public THANK YOU to all those people who have sponsored the lights during 2015/16, and before. Your support is hugely appreciated. St. John's really does benefit from your generosity; and many parishioners

have told me how much they enjoy seeing our beacon on the hill as they make their way home along the A14 late at night. Thank you all. As always, you are welcome to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's, which helps with the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church. You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively, simply make a donation. For the summer months the lights will be on between 8.00 p.m. and midnight. A night's floodlighting costs £5. Cheques payable to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

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- 1 in loving memory of Peter Worby. "You are always in my thoughts". Love Jean.
- 1 anon.
- 2 Dorothy Welin. "We miss you so much". Love Pat and Gordon.
- 2 Nan Welin. Love from Colin, Teresa and family.
- 2 Dorothy Welin. "You are in our hearts every day. Miss you always". Lots of love, Tara, Neil, Oscar, Jasmine, Stella & Ian, Lorraine & Ron.
- 2 in memory of John Ray.
- 3 in memory of John Ray.
- 4 in memory of John Ray.
- 4 in loving memory of John Davidson.
- 5 Jane Goodchild. Remembering you on your Birthday. Love Colin. XX.
- 5 in memory of John Ray.
- 6 in memory of John Ray.
- 7 in loving memory of Rose Emma Manning.
- 7 in memory of John Ray.
- 9 in loving memory of Peter Rose on his Birthday.
- 9 remembering Rachel Louise Finch on her Birthday.
- 9 Joan Davidson. Greatly missed by all the family.
- 14 remembering Percy Pleasance, a dear Dad, Grandad and Great-Grandad, on his Birthday.
- 15 in loving memory of Joy Elizabeth Oliver on her Birthday.
- 20 Ron & Helen McLagan's 55th Wedding Anniversary.
 Married at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Eye on 20th May 1961.
 Lived in Elmswell from February 1968 to July 2006. Now living in Stowmarket.
- 25 Ted Rookard. Treasured loving memories of a Husband, Dad & Grandad, from all his family.
- 28 Dean Goodchild. Remembering you on your Birthday. Love Colin. XX.
- 30 in memory of Mark Jones. "Always in our thoughts". Mum & Dad.

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Father David Finegan

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Recently we joined the members of the over 55's club for an evening dedicated to the memory of their former chairman Stanley King, we listened to music provided by a local brass band, and to a recording of an interview Stan gave to Radio Suffolk a few years ago, and we heard a moving tribute to him given by his good friend Graham Newman, during the evening a clock was unveiled to commemorate Stan's work for the village. The evening was a most enjoyable experience a big thank you must go to the Over 55's Club for their hard work in organising the event.

The evening reminded me of the words I heard at a friend's funeral that we bring nothing into the world when we are born and take nothing out when we die, what we leave behind are our

families and memories of what we have achieved in our lives Stan had no family of his own but he left memories by the bucket load of the good things he did for our community here in Elmswell, thank you Stan.

We at the Chapel start our activities in May on the Monday 9th with our Ladies Friendship Group's annual outing with a visit to High Hall at Nettlestead.

On 11th May we host a planning meeting for this year's Children's Holiday Club, where the leaders Ian and Elaine Coules will be outlining the theme for this year's event.

On the 12th May we meet for our Food and Friends lunch at 12 o'clock. Sadly in recent weeks we have had to say goodbye to three of our regulars Mick, Doreen and Joan who have sadly passed on, our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this sad time.

On 15th May at 6.30 we join with our fellow Christians at St John's Church for a united service to celebrate Pentecost.

Our services during May will be led by:-

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 st May | Paul Kemp
(including Communion) |
| 8 th May | Stephen Spurgeon
(all age service) |
| 15 th May | Rev David Harper |
| 22 nd May | Stephen Spurgeon |
| 29 th May | Robert Foster |

Our Ladies Friendship Group is what says in the title a group that extends friendship to all ladies for an evening once a month contact Margaret on 241541 for details of the future programme. Food & Friends is a monthly lunch aimed at the older citizen held on the second Thursday in the month at 12 noon, contact Jackie on 245918 if you have not been before to ensure a place, transport is available if needed. At both events a warm welcome is extended to all as it is at all our services at 10.30 am each and every Sunday.

Thank you for taking the time to read these few words.
Dave Hollings

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STAN KING'S MEMORIAL EVENT



Raising a glass to Stan

Some 120 glasses of Stan's favourite Amontillado Sherry tippie were raised on 31st March as Graham Newman paid tribute to Stanley King before unveiling the plaque in the Jubilee Hall at Blackbourne dedicating the new clock there in Stan's memory.

Graham reminded the friends and relations who gathered of the key role that Stan played in so many ways throughout an active and long life at the heart of the community of Elmswell. A recording of Stan's interview with Radio Suffolk's John Ely was played, and once again all present were reminded of Stan's self-effacing attitude. He sought no thanks or glory for his years of dedication and selfless service both in his 'official' role in the Post Office or in the many positions – official and unofficial – which he held in the community.

Mid Suffolk Brass played some of the music that was so important to Stan and which, again, he shared selflessly from his vast record collection. The Over 55's, formerly the Helping Hand Club in which Stan played a key role for many years, laid on refreshments. The Amenities Association on which, again, Stan served for so long, arranged the event with the co-operation of the Blackbourne Management Association. Mike Friend provided the PA and filmed the event for posterity.

The plaque reminded us, Stan was, 'A dedicated servant to our community who had time for everyone.'

Well said!



Graham Newman



MID SUFFOLK BRASS

Mid Suffolk Brass were honoured to play at the recent very moving community tribute to Stanley King

We are available to play at community events, county shows, garden parties, fetes, weddings, bandstand concerts and formal evening concerts.

We are always looking for new band members. So, if you are interested in joining us or just want to come along and play a brass instrument, we meet at St Peters Church Hall, Stowmarket every Monday evening at 7.45pm. We are a friendly band and are always working hard on learning new pieces of music.

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BEFORE JAMIE...

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Doreen, who was born in 1926, started at Elmswell as Assistant Cook in 1956. For many years in charge of the school dinners, Doreen retired after 38 years of service - some 7,600 meals later!

Casting her experienced eye over plans for the new kitchen at the Oxer Close site, Doreen told the County Council that it was, 'nowhere big enough'.



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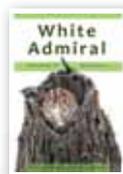
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D	R	P	L	A	Y	N	D	A	N
F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	O	O
M	J	Z	B	M	I	L	C	C	R

You will need:

Cress seed, cotton wool, kitchen towel, clean yoghurt pot

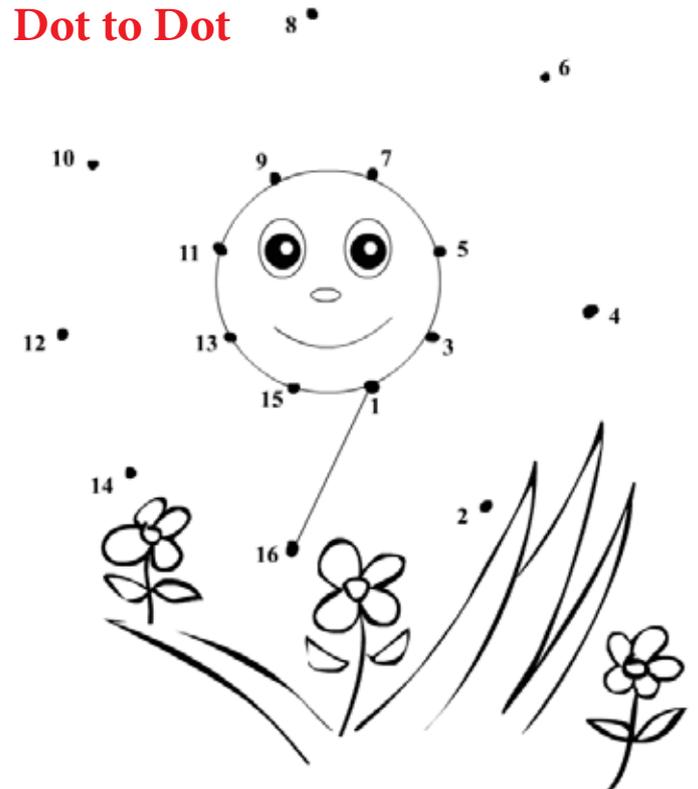
1. Clean the yogurt pot and fill with dampened kitchen towel and top with damp cotton wool
2. Sprinkle over the cress seeds
3. Place the yoghurt pot in a warm area
4. Watch the growth every day
5. Add one more step – harvesting- make yourself and your family some cress sandwiches for tea

Bike **Football** **Garden** **Swim** **Trees**
Walk **Play** **Read** **Climb** **Den**

Take a family trip to Lukeswood and go on a Minibeast Hunt



Dot to Dot



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Bee



Worm



Woodlouse



Ant



Slug



Snail



Ladybird



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CHAT AND MAYBE A
CUPPA?*

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ELMSWELL BABY & TODDLER GROUP

We have had a busy and varied first quarter of the year at Elmswell Baby & Toddlers. Firstly I would like to welcome Abbie James and Ria Burch who have recently joined our committee. They have immediately got involved particularly on the craft activities. We are looking forward to seeing more new ideas from them.

We try to encourage imaginative or sensory play at the group and it was suggested that we hold a box session. After garages being stuffed with empty cardboard boxes for weeks, the day arrived and all we provided the children with was boxes and craft materials (we had no ride-ons or other toys out and no-one missed them as they had so much fun). The children produced houses and trains and thoroughly enjoyed themselves as you can see in the photo.

We have had our first trip of the year to Baylam Rare Breeds Farm to see the newborn lambs. Despite the rather chilly day, a good time was had by all (and by all I mean parents and children). Jay enjoyed being licked by the friendly cow and Donna enjoyed refusing to give him a wet wipe to clean up the dripping slobber! Such a lovely place and it is so nice for the children to be able to see the animals so close up. We would definitely recommend a trip.

We have three more trips planned for this year; keep your eyes peeled for further information in due course.

We have been very lucky to receive a cheque from the Firemen for us to buy some new floor mats and Ria produced a beautiful craft to make fire engine cards one of which we sent to the firemen.

We have recently held our Nearly New Sale and I am pleased to say this has been our most successful sale to date raising over £1,500 for the group. Thank you to every single person involved in organising and running the event we could not do it without you. Next sale is September 24th.

At Easter we enjoyed making Easter balloons (complete with chocolate eggs inside) and more recently we have crafted stained glass windows and planted sunflower seeds for the children to grow at home.



FRESH

We would like to say a BIG thank you to those of you who took part at the FRESH bingo. Thanks to you we raised well over £500!!! We would especially like to thank Brian, Mark and Eddie from the Elmswell Fire Service for all their help and bingo expertise. Thank you also to Penny at Nail Creative, The Apex and those of you who kindly donated prizes for the raffle.

Another big thank you to all of you that brought in cakes for our St George's day cake sale and to those of you that bought them, we made a fantastic £170!

The School Disco is on Friday the 20th of May. Tickets will be going on sale Monday the 9th of May so get in quick as we only have a limited number of spaces!

Preparations are well under way for the School Summer Fayre on Friday the 8th of July, if you have any suggestions or can help in anyway please contact us by email or leave a message with the school office and we'll get back to you.

The FRESH Team -
fresh.elmswell@yahoo.co.uk

LONELINESS!

There are many form of loneliness and I recently attended a workshop provided by the Rural Coffee Caravan at Eye community hall. Recent articles in the papers show that Loneliness can be a contributory factor in Mental health, Stroke and Heart attack risk and suicide. These are well reported in The Times, Guardian and Independent amongst others and it is backed by much research. The findings are accepted by BHF, Mind and others.

It was an interesting day and we listened to many speakers and participated in group discussion. Loneliness can lead to many problems as highlighted by Trading standards. The elderly resident who never gets a visitor, and one day a nice young man offers to clear her garden for a 'few quid'. They are grateful for the help and indeed the company with a cup of tea. He promises to come back next week and clear the back garden, and the week after he plants some flowers. The resident looks forwards to the visits and even buys biscuits and sandwich fillings. Then the young man says the gutter is falling down and he can do it but it is very expensive about £10,000. She agrees after all it needs doing. Long story short she loses £57K.

Then of course the family who buy a house with a 'granny flat' and sells mum's house and she moves in 'to be close to the family' except of course she has moved from the place she lived in for 30 years and now is in a flat in a place she does not know and the kids go to school and the son and daughter in law are at work all day. She is no longer able to drive and there is no direct bus back to her friends.



The person who has lost their life long companion and now feels isolated, Recently retired and the partner still works full time, with maybe a few evening clubs? Moved to the village some while ago and now stopped work with a baby. Partner works longer to make up the cash loss?, and so it goes on and on.

Here in Elmswell we are very fortunate to have many clubs and societies that offer all sorts of help. We also have probably the finest community hall(s) in the whole of East Anglia. However unlike smaller villages who's hall is smack bang in the centre, the Blackbourne is set on the edge of the village, not a short walk if you live in Mill Gdns. So many people no longer can afford to drive or are physically able to drive. Maybe it is time to purchase a village wide minibus and have a pool of drivers?

This short introduction will be followed up in the next Newsletter with a breakdown of the clubs and societies running in Elmswell and the benefits that can be gained by joining.

Do you know someone who may be lonely? Are you lonely? Why not e-mail me or phone and have a chat and I will see if I can put you in touch in the meantime with someone to help you.

Mike.friend@easidoor.co.uk or 01359 241699.



ELMSWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Steering Group met on 7th April at Blackbourne with Ian Poole, owner / director of Places4People, the consultancy in Ipswich retained by Mid Suffolk District Council as a 'critical friend' and mentor to local Neighbourhood Development Plan groups.

Ian had previously met with some of the group who had had a particular input into gathering and collating statistical data. This led him to advise that the Group needs to next address the 'direction' in which development might be 'steered' by the community's wishes.

Through Mid Suffolk, Ian is to provide large scale maps on which identified sites can be analysed in terms of impact assessments. Members agreed to take photographs to inform this process and the Guy Ackers hedgerow map together with aerial photographs will provide further input.

Figures are to be sourced on health provision, flood plains & environmental constraints, Tree Preservation Orders and the capacity of the Kiln Lane sewage facility in order to better inform the process of site analysis and benchmarking various levels of growth.

The next meeting, early in May will attempt to bring these various factors together in map form.



FACEBOOK



WEBSITE



The group is made up of the following members who can all be contacted by email:

Marian Abbott	Marian731@btinternet.com
Philip Blissett	pblissett@btinternet.com
Julie Cole	jules.cole@hotmail.co.uk
Peter Dow	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk
Peter Edmonds	peterjedmonds@tiscali.co.uk
Mary Feeney	feeneymj@btinternet.com
Terry Garner	terryjgarner@btinternet.com
Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com
Brian Hawes	Brian.hawes@live.co.uk
Sarah Mansel	Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk
Fred Pallett	fjp@oilgasassociates.com
Shaun Pratt	shaun.pratt@btinternet.com
Ann Richards	ann@richards47.plus.com
Jane Storey	Jane.Storey@councillors.suffolkcc.gov.uk
Julia Taber	Juliataber4@icloud.com

THE WOOLPIT FESTIVAL 2016 PROGRAMME

Saturday 4 June - 12 midday LUNCHTIME CONCERT

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Thursday 9 June - 7.30pm GALA NIGHT with CLARE PRESLAND

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Friday 10 June - 7.30pm PIANO RECITAL - MATTHEW McCOMBIE

Piano recital from some of the works of the great composers. Tickets £15

Saturday 11 June - 7.30pm CHRIS INGHAM & FRIENDS - JAZZ

Well known Jazz Quartet playing Hoagy Carmichael favourites. Tickets £15

Friday 17 June - 7.30pm JOHN KIRKPATRICK & FRIENDS - FOLK

Renowned folk musician (Steeleye Span, Richard Thompson Band). Tickets £12

Saturday 18 June - 10am-4.00pm FESTIVAL DAY

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ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

The Start of the Season is Here!

Who says Outdoor Bowls is a summer pursuit?



This is the scene of the Green in the middle of a game being played on 26 April! You Readers will not be surprised that the game was abandoned after the players returned to the Club House for a hot mug of strong tea.

You will remember that I wrote last month that members were eagerly awaiting the 16 April for the start of the season and the traditional first 'Drive' by all-comers in the Club. As I showed last month; the green was in an excellent condition as I, (a fairly newcomer to Bowls) have seen it! However, there was a proviso – weather permitting – and yes, you have guessed correctly; the first Drive started and the heavens opened to add to the bitterly cold, cross-green wind and after the first round of the 3 round tournament; time was called, for the sake of the green as much of the players, and the match was abandoned; Weather 1 - EBC 0, at the very start of the season. However, we retired to the Clubhouse and indulged a lovely spread to celebrate the birthdays of three members of the Club and the weather was forgotten!

However, the first part of the traditional start to the season was able to take place before the drive commenced. This part is known as the 'Spider', a simultaneous rapid-fire of one Wood, by each member, on the Chairman's command 'go'. Each member stands around one of the four sides of



the green, with one foot in the gutter to the rink and bowls to the 'cot' (white ball) situated in the centre of the green. The closest wins.

The weather held good for this part and Neil Smart ran away the worthy winner of an excellent bottle of Whisky, in very heavy and difficult conditions!

In the first competition of the season, the Elmswell Bowls Club got off to a great start in the Bury & District League. The Club beat Hengrave Bowls Club, at home, in a tough match, winning 3 of the 4 rinks for a score of some 80 to 50 in a well-deserved win and a good start to the season. Dick Birch is the captain of the team.

New Members

Two new members started on the 16 April as the season started so at least the Newby Cup can be played for later in the season if no others join in later weeks. It is good to be able welcome Jim and Mark to the Club and to hope that they enjoy the sport as much as other members do, as they start their Bowls careers. Both Jim and Mark were keen to start their training on the morning of the start of the season with Brenda Begg and Linda Abbott doing the coaching.

Trevor Clarke

ELMSWELL CC

At time of writing we are busy preparing for the 2016 season. Three recent indoor net sessions have been well attended and the players are now ready (as they'll ever be!) for the season ahead. As in previous years, we will have two teams representing the village, one in the Suffolk Cricket Sunday League and one in the Suffolk Mid Week league. As ever, we are always on the look out for new players to join the club with all abilities and ages welcome. If you would be interested in taking part then we would love to hear from you. You can contact the club through one of the following methods. Please note, outdoor net sessions will commence on Wednesday 4th May at 6:15pm at The Blackbourne. Call: Ian on 01359 244139 Email: elmswellcricketclub@gmail.com Twitter: @elmswellcricket



Upcoming fixtures:

Wed 4 th May	Battisford	(A)
Sun 8 th May	Tendring Park	(H)
Wed 11 th May	Brettenham	(H)
Sun 15 th May	Twinstead	(H)
Wed 18 th May	Salvation Army	(H)
Sun 22 nd May	Great Cornard	(H)
Wed 25 th May	Bardwell	(A)



ELMSWELL YOUTH FC

At Elmswell Youth FC we appreciate that football is not for everyone and that not everyone is going to become a professional footballer. However, if you ever needed a reason to know why we, the volunteers of EYFC, do what we do week in week out then look no further than the attached photo. This girl plays for the U7's and is smitten with football. She represents Elmswell and our ethos that Every Youth Footballer Counts.



Football might not be for everyone but keeping young children / young adults active is something we can all take responsibility for. These young people are our future generation. How nice will it be for them to be able to look back on the fantastic times they have had with Elmswell Youth FC at the Blackbourne as great memories of their youth.



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PICTURES FROM THE PAST



This photo shows a children's summer seaside outing in the mid-1920s, and has been provided by a recent newcomer to the village, Alan Hartley, whose relative, William Kettle, is shown standing 2nd from the right in the first row. Alan thinks this may be an Elmswell School outing, possibly to Felixstowe or Harwich, but wonders if any villager recognises any of their own relatives or friends in this photo. Alan's grand-father, Edgar Horrace Kettle, was the Secretary at the Bacon Factory from 1922-27, when he lived at 'Arundel Villa' (now 'East View') in Ashfield Road.

If you have any further details about this photo, the History Group's Secretary, Stella Chamberlin would be delighted to hear from you at 01359-242601, on behalf of Alan Hartley, for which many thanks in advance.



Nursery Open Afternoon

We will be having an Open Afternoon on **Monday 9th May 2016** from 1.30pm to 3pm in our Nursery and would love to see you and your children for a "pop in and look round" session.

If your child is born between **1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013**, he or she will be eligible to join our School Nursery from September this year.

Our Nursery children join in with our Reception classes in "Team Tuesdays" and school assemblies. The children follow our Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and are encouraged to mix with other children of all ages as they are able to extend their day by joining us for lunch if required. In the summer we are planning some exciting improvements to our Nursery outdoor area. We look forward to seeing you there!



*Mrs J Ash
Head teacher*



ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL - APRIL REPORT

Full Council is scheduled to meet on the 3rd Monday monthly, excepting August, at 7.30pm. The April meeting took place at The Blackbourne on Monday 18th with 7 of the current 10 councillors present, along with Mid Suffolk District Council Ward Member Mrs Sarah Mansel, County Council Ward member Mrs Jane Storey, Parish Clerk Mr Peter Dow, and 3 members of the public.

This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which comprises the Council Chairman, Cllr Fred Pallett, the Council Vice-chairman, Cllr Brian Hawes and Cllr Steven Harrison, elected by his peers to join them. It seeks to cover some of the more interesting or significant items thought to deserve wider public attention. Included, where appropriate, are matters reported to the meeting by external bodies such as Ward Members or as raised at the meeting by members of the public. Further background and reference to subsequent events are included where relevant.

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings, together with the agenda for the next meeting, when published, are available on line at www.elmswell.onesuffolk.net, in the Memorial Library and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes, from the March Council meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the community notice board at the Co-op.

Wesley chapel

The Clerk reported that he had attended, on Council's behalf, the recent Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Committee meeting to discuss the Planning application made by the Methodist Church seeking to convert the chapel on School Road into a dwelling. He had, in addressing Members at the meeting, stressed the role of the Asset of Community Value Registration under which the Parish Council has lodged a formal Expression of Interest in Bidding under the Community Right to Bid legislation introduced in the 2011 Localism Act. The 'value' lies in the history of the facility which has housed many different community groups and activities over many years, in the present, as home to a range of much valued activities, and in the future when, with the experience and resources of the Parish Council driving it there could be a programme of development and improvement which would serve an even wider range of community activity under local stewardship. Many grass-roots users of the facilities had attended the meeting and this had encouraged a unanimous decision from the Committee members to reject the application.

This decision takes the community closer to a reasonable negotiation environment with fewer unknowns, and both Council Chairman Cllr Fred Pallett, Cllr David Hawes and Cllr Shaun Pratt, as members of the small group of Councillors charged with negotiating a purchase of the facilities, confirm that the Council's professional agents, Messrs Lacy Scott & Knight, are instructed and are in touch with the vendors' agents at Jackson Stops & Staff.

County Council

Cllr Mrs Jane Storey tabled a written report including news of the recent Devolution Deal announced for East Anglia which initially promises that East Anglia would receive £900m (£30million per year for the next 30 years) to invest in infrastructure together with £175m to invest in housing. She stressed that it is not a 'done deal' by any means and there is still a lot of work to be done. The proposal document can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/east-anglia-devolution-deal. The report also included details of a new health campaign which kicked off earlier this month suggesting that Suffolk people who

look after their health in middle age could double their chances of being healthy by the time they reach 70. Launched by Public Health England, *One You* aims to help adults avoid future diseases caused by modern day life by making changes to everyday habits. It will help Suffolk adults to move more, eat well, drink less and be smoke free realistic goals and providing information on how people can reduce their stress levels and sleep better. The campaign starts with a call to take part in a new online health quiz called 'How Are You', which provides personalised recommendations based on your results. It can also signpost people to tools and advice to take action where it's most needed. For more information and to take the 'How Are You' online quiz, visit www.healthysuffolk.org.uk or search for 'One You' online.

District Council

Cllr Mrs Sarah Mansel's written report also made mention of the devolution proposals, pointing out that the 'Deal' requires the creation of a Combined Authority and directly elected Mayor and it is proposed that the first mayoral elections would be in May 2017 alongside county council elections. The report also dealt with the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which begins on 11th April. This is a new system which will partly replace S106 payments from developers towards the provision of infrastructure. It is hoped that this scheme will speed up the granting of Planning permission as it is a fixed rate of payment whereas S106 are negotiable and can take a long time to be finalised. On a six monthly basis, parishes will be allocated 15% (or 25% with a Neighbourhood Plan in place) of any CIL monies collected in their area, capped at £100 per council tax dwelling.

PCSO Steve Pendergast

Councillors agreed that a letter of appreciation and thanks should go to PCSO Steve Pendergast who has served Elmswell and the surrounding villages for some 9 years. As part of the recent reorganisation of the Constabulary in Suffolk, Steve is taking redundancy from the force.

Clerk's report

Peter Dow's monthly report include details of his attendance at a Lawn Farm Quarry liaison meeting on 14th April, another of the

regular meetings including residents, Council officials and Company representatives. The meetings always include a tour around the site without restriction. The problems recently experienced with the new aggregate washing plant have not impinged beyond the site, but the failure of the wheel wash has given rise to continuing problems of mud on the highway towards Tothill. An entirely new wheel wash facility is to be installed on 21st April which, together with the provision of further hard standing and roadway within the site, should obviate the problem within the next 4 weeks. The operator's attention was drawn to the possible problem of preventing HGV's accessing the new Bacon Factory site avoiding a short cut down Warren Lane should Aggmax, the quarry operating company, secure any contracts to supply the housebuilder once work commences. Full co-operation was agreed and there is an active body of residents in contact with the Clerk in the event of incursions.

Planning results

The meeting noted the following decisions made by Mid Suffolk District Council, the Planning Authority:
Reference 0150/16 0072/16...Works associated with and change of use / conversion former dairy building to 2 dwellings at Dagwood Farm, Ashfield Road. GRANTED EPC supported
Reference 0610/16...Change of use and conversion of redundant church to dwelling house with provision of parking and formation of new vehicular access at Elmswell Methodist Church, School Road. REFUSED EPC objected
Reference 0839/16...Extensions to 16 Wyatt Close. GRANTED EPC did not comment.

Planning applications

Councillors agreed to support an application ref. 1162/16 for the erection of a detached dwelling with construction of a vehicular access at The barn, Grove Lane.

Councillors objected to an application ref.1140/16 for extensions and the erection of a detached garage with first floor office space at Tirole House, Church Road for the following reasons:

1 The proposed 2 storey garage with shower and toilet facilities represents an over-development in its situation at the front of the plot and in close proximity to Church Road.



The large footprint and considerable mass of the garage, ahead of the general building line, presents an overbearing and blank aspect to the detriment of the street scene which is out of keeping with the neighbouring properties. As such the application runs counter to Core Strategy Policy CS5 requiring that proposals should maintain or enhance the character and appearance of their surroundings, together with the constraint in Local Plan policies GP1, regarding poor design and layout, and both H13 & H15 with regard to protecting the character of the site, the relationship of any proposal to its surroundings and consistency with the pattern and form of development in the neighbouring area.

2 The size and nature of the proposed garage building would lend itself well to activity and occupation which need not necessarily be ancillary to the enjoyment of the main dwelling. As such it poses the threat of undesirable and unauthorised future use without regard to Planning policy.

Children's Holiday Club

The annual Children's Holiday Club at Blackbourne, organised by Christians Together in Elmswell, is attended by some 80 youngsters aged 5 – 11 each day of its chosen week in August and is supported by older helpers aged 12-18 as well as many adult helpers under the guidance of qualified professional leaders who are paid. Councillors agreed to grant aid this year's project in the sum of £300.00

Casual Vacancy

Following the resignation from the Council of Cllr Mrs Helen Gunby there has been a requisition of a Poll signed by 10 electors. This will be formally advertised and nominations invited for candidates as part of the electoral process overseen by Mid Suffolk District Council. Should more than 1 candidate be put forward, there will be a contested election following the rules and procedures of a Parliamentary Election with polling held on 2nd June. Councillors agreed that, to ensure the widest publicity for the process and in the interests of democracy, Polling Cards should go to each household. The cost of a contested election is estimated by Mid Suffolk at £4,457.00. If no candidates, or just one candidate, come forward, the cost of an uncontested election would be £175.00.

Annual Parish Meeting

There is a legal requirement for the community to be invited to an annual meeting to discuss, 'parish affairs'. This is an ancient procedure commonly used as a local forum for residents to learn about and have their say on issues of local importance. There is no established framework and Elmswell Parish Council has often used the occasion to encourage wider debate. This year's meeting will take place in May and the Clerk undertook to try to arrange for the attendance of the new constituency MP, Jo Churchill, as a focus for the event which will also be available to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee for a consultation exercise.

Filming of meetings

Since the change in legislation under the Openness of Local Government Bodies regulations in 2014, Elmswell Parish Council has encouraged the recording of Council and Committee meetings. Many such are now available on You Tube as filmed by a member of the public, Mike Friend. The Council has recently purchased its own video camera capable of recording full meetings and this will now happen as a matter of course. The footage will be held as a record of proceedings.

Next meeting

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting of Council when annual reports are invited and officers elected. It is scheduled for Monday 16th May at the earlier than usual time of 7.00pm in The Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council and Council committee meetings and the agenda will always offer opportunities for questions and comment. Agendas are published on line at www.elmswell.onesuffolk.net, on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op outside the Post Office.

Enquiries on any or all of the above, or on any Council matter, are invited through the Parish Clerk, Peter Dow at the Parish Clerk's Office, Station Road, Elmswell IP30 9HR. telephone 01359 244134 email clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk.

The office is situated on the Station Road Industrial Estate, behind the Fox pub and right next to the railway line above Gobblins factory premises. It is open for business on weekdays from 9.00am – 5.30 pm, excepting Bank Holidays. The answerphone is monitored daily.



FOOTPATH WALK

Our next walk starts, as usual, from Crown Mill, on

SUNDAY 15th MAY beginning at 11.00 am

Open to all comers & led by Footpath Officer Dick Burch

A couple of hours gentle walking on the footpaths in and around Elmswell

Dogs on leads welcome – stout shoes recommended



**HEALTH WARNING
CHILDRENS PLAY AREA
NO DOGS**

**However big we print it, dogs can't read.
It was hoped that their owners can.**

However, sadly, there are still those who park their cars at Blackbourne and walk across the grass to access the footpaths.

The evidence is clear. 23/04/2016

The evidence is unsightly and dangerous.

The evidence can cause blindness in the children playing on the grass.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG OFF THE PLAYING FIELD

CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM (SNT)



To speak to an officer from your local SNT, because they may well be out on patrol, the easiest option is to telephone the number 101, which is the new number across England and Wales for local police forces. You will then be told you are being put through to Suffolk Constabulary's Police HQ, where you can speak to the operator and either ask to be put through to a particular officer, or to Mid Suffolk South Safer Neighbourhood team office.

As an alternative you can email them directly through the following link:

Email:

stowmarket.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

THIS PAGE IS PUBLISHED AND FUNDED BY ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

What's On in Elmswell ?



To be included in our events diary make sure you send separate notification of your announcement.

For a full year's calendar of what's booked at Blackbourne, please go to the Parish Council website at www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk - it might help you in planning dates for your events.

May 2016

- 4 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Annual General Meeting and Resolutions plus a little something extra !
- 9 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - outing to High Hall, Nettlestead meet at chapel at 6.15pm - open to men as well
- 10 Elmswell WI we meet at The Blackbourne for 7.30pm AGM
- 12 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall.** 7.30pm, Speaker Justyn Keeble: "Elmswell's WW2 Home Guard - much more than Dad's Army!"
- 12 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 13 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 17 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Garden of Gertrude Jekyll and Lutyens
- 17 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Outing to Thetford Garden Centre
- 20 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 27 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 27 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

June 2016

- 1 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Glen Abassi - My Courier Work for Anthony Nolan
- 2 Over 55's Club Brick Lane 60's Show with 3 Course Lunch
- 6 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - meal at Bunbury Arms, Gt. Barton - meet at chapel at 6.30pm - open to men as well
- 9 **Elmswell History Group meeting, Wesley Hall. 7pm A.G.M.,** then Speaker Brian Milner: "Six Hospitals and a Chapel in Medieval Bury St Edmunds"
- 9 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 10 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 12 Annual Service: The Friends of St John's 10.30am in St John's Church
- 14 Elmswell WI we meet at The Blackbourne for 7.30pm Suffolk Law Advice Centre Speaker Ann Barber
- 17 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 21 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: The Perennial Mr Potter
- 21 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Talk by Juliet Walker and PAT dog Raffle
- 24 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 24 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

July 2016

- 6 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Sheila Jeffrey - My Role as a Marie Curie Nurse
- 8 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 12 Elmswell WI Outing

- 14 **Elmswell History Group** - Elmswell History Group - Annual Outing: 7pm meet at WW1 Huts Project, Hawstead. Details from Stella at 01359-242601, and tickets on sale at May and June's meetings.
- 14 Food & Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 Over 55's Club Male Voice Choir
- 15 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 16, 17, 18 Flower Festival in St John's Church 2pm-5pm each day
- 17 Elmswell Open Gardens
- 19 Gardening Club - Summer Activity
- 19 Elmswell Exchange Social Club AGM Strawberry Tea Raffle
- 22 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 28 Over 55's Club Outing The Hut @ Felixstowe
- 29 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

August 2016

- 3 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Members Meeting - Garden Party at Carol's
- 5 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 9 Elmswell WI we meet at The Blackbourne for 7.30pm Members meeting
- 16 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Shared Lunch
- 19 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon

September 2016

- 5 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church 7.45pm - Memories of a holiday in New Zealand with Flory Heller
- 7 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 7 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Colin Hopper - The World of Optical Illusion
- 8 Elmswell History Group, to be arranged
- 13 Elmswell WI at the Blackbourne for 7.30pm Harvest supper
- 16 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 20 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Passion for Gardening
- 20 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Speaker T.B.A. Raffle
- 21 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Outing to Suffolk Punch Horses
- 22 Over 55's club Sing along with Hank
- 23 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 24 Elmswell Toddlers Club Nearly New Sale 11am - 2pm
- 26 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30
- 30 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 30 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

October 2016

- 3 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church 7.45pm - Modern Day Nursing with Alice Skull

- 5 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Andrea Davey - Let's Build a Gingerbread House
- 11 Elmswell WI we meet at The Blackbourne for 7.30pm Elmswell Butchers Speaker Alistair
- 13 Elmswell History Group, to be arranged
- 14 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 18 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne Talk: Good Companions
- 18 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Mr. Parfitt Return to Bhutan in the Himalayas Raffle
- 21 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 28 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 28 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

November 2016

- 2 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Jason Salisbury The Story of Suffolk Cheeses
- 7 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church 7.45pm - Preparations for Christmas with members
- 8 Elmswell WI we meet at the Blackbourne for 7.30pm Haughley Hoofers
- 10 Elmswell History Group, to be arranged
- 11 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 15 Gardening Club 7.30pm Blackbourne AGM + tba
- 15 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Bingo Raffle
- 17 Over 55's Club Stowmarket Concert Band
- 18 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 18/21 Over 55's Eastbourne Turkey & Tinsel book early
- 25 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 25 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

December 2016

- 3 Over 55's Club Xmas Party with "Jim Bob Duo"
- 5 Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church 7.45pm - Nosh & Natter, entertainment by Born in a Barn - open to men as well
- 6 Elmswell Exchange Social Club Christmas Lunch
- 7 Elmswell Exchange W.I. Christmas Celebrations
- 8 Elmswell History Group, to be arranged 9 "Companions" meet at The Wesley Hall 10.15am - 12 noon
- 13 Elmswell WI at the Blackbourne for 7.30pm Xmas Party
- 16 St. John's Friday Ladies Lunch @ The Wesley Hall 11.30am
- 16 Elmswell Bingo at the Blackbourne, doors open at 6.45, eyes down 7.30

..and at The Wesley Hall each week...
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Regular meetings at Blackbourne

Monday

Guides 6.30 - 8.00,

Youth Club 7.00 - 9.00, Zumba 6.00 - 7.00

Tuesday

Beavers 5.15 - 6.30

Slimming World 5.30 & 7.30

WI (2nd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 - 10.30

Gardening club (3rd Tuesday monthly) 7.00 - 10.00

Wednesday

Scouts 5.45 - 9.00

Jujutsu martial arts class 7.00 - 9.00

Winters Academy - dance classes 4.00 - 6.00

Thursday

Brownies 5.30 - 8.00

Over 55's 7.00 - 10.00 (2nd & 4th monthly)

Friday

Bingo (last Friday monthly) eyes down 7.30

BATS - Badminton & Table Sports - 7.00 - 10.00

Sunday

Sozo Home Church 10.30 - 12.30, usually every 3rd Sunday. All welcome. www.sozohomechurch.com

To make a booking enquiry

Call; 244134

Email; clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk





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